

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated August 9, 2006. Claims 1-3, 4-10, 12-15 and 17-20 are pending. Claims 1, 5-8, 12-15 and 19 are rejected. Claims 2, 3, 9, 10, 17, 18 and 20 are objected to. Claims 1, 8 and 15, have been amended. Claims 4, 9, 11, 16 and 17 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-3, 5-8, 10, 12-15, 18-20 remain pending in the present application.

Applicant does not concede that original independent claims 1, 8 and 15 are not patentable and reserves the right to file a continuation application containing such claims should the Applicant desire. Nevertheless, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

For the reasons set forth more fully below, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims as now presented are allowable. Consequently, reconsideration, allowance, and passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner states,

6. Claims 2-3, 9-10, 17-18, 20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has rewritten claim 1 to substantially include the limitations of claim 2.

Applicant has rewritten claim 8 to substantially include the limitations of claim 9. Applicant has rewritten claim 15 to substantially include the limitations of claim 17.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that claims 1-3, 5-8, 10, 12-15, 18-20 are allowable over the cited references and are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully

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requests reconsideration of the rejections and objections to the claims, as now presented.

Applicants' attorney believes this application in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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November 13, 2006

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